



OHV Safety Tips and Code of Ethics

Before any ride, here are some basic tips to follow:

- ◆ Read your owner's manual – The manufacturer provided owner's manual is an excellent source of information on the operation of your OHV and includes great safety information.
- ◆ Know location of controls – Take some time to familiarize yourself with your OHV's controls, knowing their location and purpose is essential before any ride.
- ◆ Be prepared for the unexpected – Always let someone know where you are riding and when you will return. Remember to pack water and a snack in case you are out longer than expected.
- ◆ Wear protective gear – This includes boots, pants, a long-sleeve shirt and never ride without a DOT approved helmet.
- ◆ Inspect your OHV before riding – Your vehicle may be low on gas, oil or tire pressure.
- ◆ Practice turning, braking and parking – Ensure you can handle the size of the vehicle you are driving.
- ◆ Know the terrain – If it's your first time riding in an area, go slow and expect the unexpected.
- ◆ Know the laws - The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department provides a booklet covering state OHV laws, *2009-2011 North Dakota Off-Highway Vehicle Laws & Safety Guidelines*; however, you should always check with your local authorities in case there are any additional local laws.
- ◆ Practice safe riding principles to protect yourself, others and the environment.
- ◆ Register your OHV – In ND if you are riding on public lands, trails or right of ways, you are required to have registered your vehicle. More information and a list of exemptions can be found in the *2009-2011 North Dakota Off-Highway Vehicle Laws & Safety Guidelines* booklet.

The *2009-2011 North Dakota Off-Highway Vehicle Laws & Safety Guidelines* can be found under laws in the OHV additional information section of the NDPRD website.

OHV Riders Code of Ethics

- ◆ I will learn how to use all of the mechanical controls and safety devices of my OHV by reading the owner's manual; and I will check them each time before I ride.
- ◆ I will wear a helmet at all times along with other protective clothing suitable to the environment when I ride.
- ◆ I will ask an instructor or qualified rider to teach me proper riding skills; and I will practice until my skills are well developed before entering an unfamiliar area.
- ◆ I will ride in the company of others, never alone.
- ◆ I will not carry passengers on my OHV, unless the vehicle is designed by the manufacturer to do so.
- ◆ I will be courteous to other riders and persons by offering right-of-way and respecting areas that are posted closed.
- ◆ I will not modify the OHV exhaust system to create more noise, nor will I ride an OHV on the street.
- ◆ I will not use alcohol or other drugs when I ride.
- ◆ I will not litter the area nor damage plant life where I ride.
- ◆ I will only lend my OHV to someone I have personally instructed in its safe and appropriate use.
- ◆ I will not let young or inexperienced riders ride unsupervised.

I have made this pledge because I am a thoughtful OHV rider. I accept my responsibility for preserving the sport and the safety of its enthusiasts.